

agencies of the State Government and the concerned Army authorities. The fire started at about 1215 hours on 24th May, 2001, in 2 Ammunition Sub Depot (24 Field Ammunition Depot), Birdhwal (Ganganagar) and within an hour the District Magistrate of Hanumangarh, and shortly thereafter the District Magistrates of Suratgarh and Bikaner were contacted by the Corp Headquarters, seeking assistance for fire fighting operations.

Computerization of Ordnance Depots

1243. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the findings/observations of CAG Report No. 7A (Defence Services) of 2000 on material management by the ordnance depots under the Director General of Ordnance Services (DGOS);

(b) whether inventory management in the ordnance depots has been fully automated;

(c) if so, whether the existing provisions and issue system have also been computerized; and

(d) how many ordnance depots are yet to be computerized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was tabled in the Parliament on 22.12.2000. The aim of the study was to review the inventory management policies, practices and procedures of inventory held by the Central Ordnance Depots. Audit fund deficiencies in the implementation of the prescribed systems and highlighted delays in some depots in issue of the Supplementary Provision Review Directive (SPRD), non placement of demands and tendency to hold on to revealed surpluses instead of declaring them for disposal. Accordingly, a number of recommendations have been made in the report, for consideration and implementation by the Army Ordnance Corps, in particular, as also other connected organization like Department of Defence Production & Supplies, Directorate General of Quality Assurances, Directorate of Standardization as well as the

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Government. The Ministry of Defence and the Army Headquarters have agreed to and initiated action on most of the recommendations. However some of important recommendations *inter-alia* are as under:—

- (a) speeding up the on-going computerization project;
- (b) revising the scales which govern spares procurement;
- (c) restructuring the supply chain;
- (d) reducing procurement related lead-time both internal and external;
- (e) improving the intake standards of manpower.

At present only limited automation has been achieved. Depots are presently functioning 'on stand alone' basis. Completed automation of inventory is being carried out as part of the Computerized Inventory Control Project (CICP), in the following three phases:—

- (i) Phase-I Automate inventory management functions of Central Ordnance Depot, Delhi Cantonment, Army Headquarters and Ministry of Defence, as a Pilot Project. This task is likely to be completed by December, 2001.
- (ii) Phase-II All the remaining Central Ordnance Depots, selected Regional Ordnance Depots and a Divisional Ordnance Unit by September, 2003.
- (iii) Phase-III All the remaining Regional Ordnance Depots/ Divisional Ordnance Units/Brigade Ordnance Units/ Ordnance Maintenance Companies/Ordnance Maintenance Platoons/Technical Store Sections by March, 2005.